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PLAGUE IN NEW ORLEANS.

Reports from New Orleans, which have been published in the Public Health Reports, show that from the outbreak of plague in that city to August 14, 1914, there had been reported 15 cases of plague in man and 51 cases in rodents.

Since that date the following human cases have been reported by telegraph:

Case 16, A. G., male, aged 52 years, employed at French market; residence, 1817 Carondela Walk; sickened August 8.

Case 17, H. S., male, aged 17 years; residence, 1836 Aberville Street; sickened August 1.

Case 18, C. S., Chinese, employed at 916 Toulouse Street; residence, 911 Toulouse Street; sick four or five days; found dead.

Case 19, M. H., female, aged 40 years; residence, 1905 Bienville Street; sickened August 14, died August 17.

The following cases in rodents have also been reported since the Public Health Reports went to press last week:

Rodent case 52, rat captured August 8 at 2851 Baronne Street.

Rodent case 53, rat captured August 13 at 3225 Dryades Street.

Rodent case 54, rat captured August 10 at 625 Commerce Street.

Rodent case 55, rat captured August 15 at 1535 St. Thomas Street.

Rodent case 56, rat captured August 10 at Harmony Street Wharf.

Rodent case 57, rat captured August 10 at 527 Dumaine Street.

Rodent case 58, rat captured August 17 at 841 Burgundy Street.

RATS, FLEAS, AND PLAGUE.

HOW PLAGUE IS TRANSMITTED FROM RATS TO MAN BY MEANS OF FLEAS.

[The following is taken from a press article furnished by the State Board of Health of North Carolina for the use of newspapers in that State.]

Rats are dangerous. They have no legitimate business nor can they serve any good purpose in any community. Sanitarians are well agreed that rats are a serious menace to health. They are so filthy in their habits as tenants of the sewers and as feeders on every-

thing dirty and diseased that it is no wonder they are carriers of disease, parasites, and plague infection.

* * * * * *

Plague is primarily a disease of the rat. It is communicated from the plague-stricken rat to other rats and from rats to man by means of fleas, as the principal agent, and it has been determined many times that handling a rat that has been dead of plague only a few hours gives the infection almost instantly. Two small boys, while playing in an unused cellar, found the body of a dead rat. The corpse was buried with unusual funeral honors. In 48 hours both were ill with bubonic plague. A laborer finding a sick rat on the wharf picked it up with the naked hand and threw it into the bay. He was seized three days later with plague. But the flea is the chief inoculator. Fleas abandon a rat dead of plague and go in search of living beings who still have warm blood circulating in their veins. Biting man, they inoculate into him the living virus which starts the disease.

Since plague is a disease due to rats and rat fleas and not to filth or dirty habits, there is only one thing to do to avoid plague—eradicate the rat. This can be done by making war on them with traps, poison, and starvation and by “rat proofing” against them; that is, by building them out. As a result of the Chinatown plague epidemic in 1907, so efficient was the rat-proof construction that followed that rats and plague were entirely “built out” of that part of the city.

COMPENSATION FOR OCCUPATIONAL DISEASES.

PROVISIONS THEREFOR RECENTLY ENACTED IN ONTARIO, CANADA.

There would seem to be no good reason why a workman should not be compensated for physical injury produced by disease caused by his employment as well as for injuries due to accidents. In this connection the law enacted by the Province of Ontario, Canada, May 1, 1914 (4 Geo. V, chap. 25), is of interest for the reason that it not only provides for compensation in case of accidents but makes specific provision for compensation for industrial or occupational disease contracted in the course of the workman's employment.

The following are the sections of the act referring to this subject:

100. (1) Where a workman suffers from an industrial disease and is thereby disabled from earning full wages at the work at which he was employed or his death is caused by an industrial disease and the disease is due to the nature of any employment in which he was engaged at any time within 12 months previous to the date of his disablement, whether under one or more employments, the workman or his dependants shall be entitled to compensation as if the disease were a personal injury by accident, and the disablement were the happening of the accident, subject to the modifications hereinafter mentioned, unless at the time of entering into the employment he had willfully and falsely represented himself in writing as not having previously suffered from the disease.